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TRENDS



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SHADES OF LUXURY

Champagne-finished Italian marble, wooden veneer and traditional motifs bring a sense of warmth and opulence to this expansive Mumbai apartment

For a city apartment, availability of ample space is usually a rare occurrence. It is then left to the architects or interior designers to work their magic with what they've got. However, in the case of architects Hitesh Shahanand and Anita Nagda of HS Desiigns, the challenge was reversed.

"When we took on the project, the owners had already purchased all the four apartments on the floor, which totaled upto an area of approximately 2300 sq ft, in addition to an 1800 sq ft terrace,"



Facing page and above: Architect Hitesh Shahanand along with Anita Nagda of HS Desiigns use motifs carved in wood to create a traditional element in this 2300 sq ft Mumbai apartment. Wooden veneer further highlights the space and brings in a sense of opulence.

Left: To add volume to the lobby, the architects place a full-length mirror with an intricately carved wooden motif frame opposite the entrance. The look is finished off with a mother-of-pearl inlay on the flooring.



Above: The dining area holds an eight-seater table. As the owner is fond of Indian contemporary art, Shahanand places a painting by artist Dutta on one of the walls.

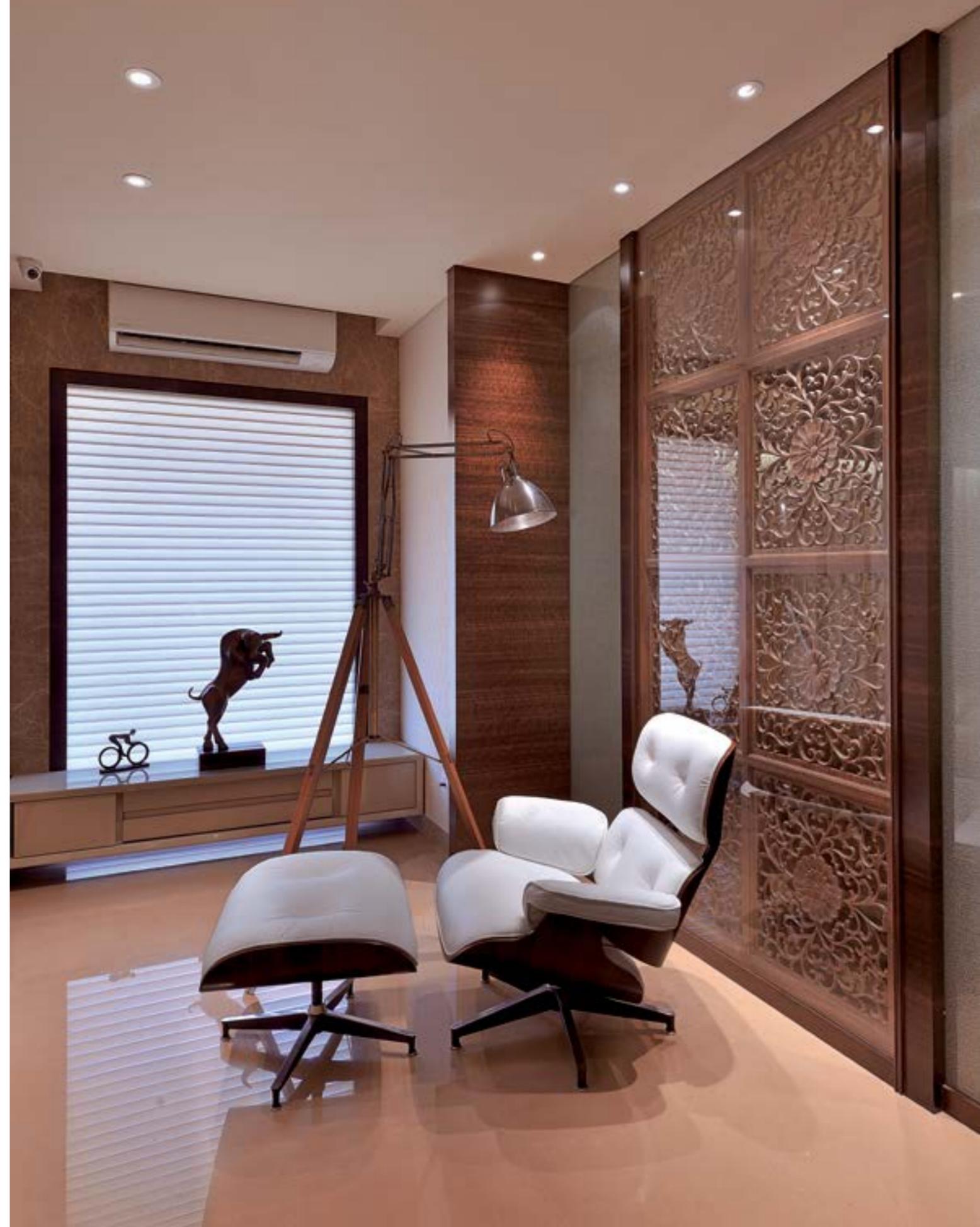
Facing page: A white leather chair with a single pedestal lamp adorns the library. A motif carved in wood sandwiched between two sheets of fibreglass, demarcates this area from the formal living room.

says Shahanand. "It was then left to us to convert these separate units into a single unit residence."

The challenge here for the architects was in form of space planning; making each area seamlessly flow into one another yet retaining privacy of each. To do this all the existing brick walls were broken down and replaced by the basic line work based on the owners' requirements. The other conundrum the architects faced was drawing the perfect balance between empty spaces and embellishments.

"To summarise the owners' brief; he had three major must-haves. One was that the house needed to exude a sense of warmth, tradition and opulence. Second, that both his daughters' bedrooms must be larger than the master bedroom and the last was that there needed to be ample room and multiple settings to entertain," says Shahanand.

The apartment opens up to a 19 ft x 5.5 ft lobby with entrances at each end to the living room. To one side of the living is the library and one of the daughter's bed-





Above: In the master bedroom, an informal seating that overlooks the terrace, is flanked with two Christopher Guy chairs that complement the colour tone of the room.

Top and above right: Light toned wallpaper, wooden veneer and gradated Italian marble grace the walls and the floor. As this room has the least available area, a wall-mounted wardrobe is concealed behind a traditional motif panel in light gold leafing.

rooms and on the other side is the dining and kitchen. The terrace stretches across the entire length of these rooms while the master bedroom and the other daughter's bedroom lie opposite the dining and kitchen. Shahanand translates the owners' brief into a monochromatic colour scheme with the use of three elements - champagne-finished Italian marble, wooden veneer and traditional Indian motifs and paintings. These elements have been represented in different forms throughout the residence.

The living room is clad in champagne-finished gradated Italian marble and highlighted further with wooden veneer. To bring in a traditional element the architects used custom-made wooden *jaali* panels sandwiched between sheets of fiberglass. Created from onyx and wood, the television unit demarcates the living room from the lobby.

"The dining and library follow the same layout and overlook the terrace. Being on the 17th floor, I wanted the focus to be the outdoors and thus, kept the

furniture to a minimal. The only design element here is the wooden *jaali* panels. As for the kitchen, I have used a light toned marble to accentuate the wooden veneer panel that frames the refrigerator and storage units," says Shahanand.

As the master bedroom has the least amount of available area, a suspended wardrobe is camouflaged behind a cut-work panel done in gold leafing with an antique finish. This continues the traditional motifs as well as offsets the dark wooden veneer and gradated marble. The

light coloured wallpaper behind the bed subtly adds texture to the space.

"It was safe to use a darker toned marble in the master bathroom due to the ample space available. I could also accommodate another wardrobe and a dressing area here, which is highlighted by wooden veneer," explains Shahanand.

The outdoor is divided into two areas- the bar and the pergola. The bar has a wooden deck and flame granite as flooring while a free-standing basin from Gessi adds an aesthetic appeal.

Above left and above: The master bathroom takes on a darker colour tone due to the ample room available, which is also complemented by the wooden paneling. Leaf-shaped motif panels conceal storage niches behind them.



Architects: Hitesh Shahanand, Anita Nagda; HS Designs
Kitchen manufacturer: Custom-made
Furniture: Custom-made
Flooring: Italian Marble
Lighting: Kanchan Puri Shetty; KSA Lighting Designers
Bath: Gessi
Basin: Gessi
Taps: Gessi
Shower: Gessi
Hot water systems: Stiebel
Wallcoverings: Italian Marble
Toilet: Duravit
Bedroom suite: Custom-made
Bed Linen: Custom-made
Landscaping: Umesh Vakale



These pages: The 1800 sq ft terrace is divided into two settings- the bar and the pergola. To maximise on the view, the bar protrudes out of a pillar instead of back against a wall. The areas are demarcated through the use of different flooring - wooden deck, flame granite and grass.

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